

PHIL JONES



Phil Jones grew up on a farm driving tractors and milking cows in Fairmount, Indiana. As a young boy, Phil had quite the imagination and had become fascinated with what he was hearing on the family radio. Inspired by it all, Phil decided to transform a part of the chicken house into a “make believe” style radio studio. The dream eventually took him from the chicken house all the way to the White house and he became a 6 time Emmy Award winning journalist!

Phil was raised with principles and a good work ethic that would serve him well throughout his professional life and personal life. Phil’s imagination and desire to entertain had him doing plays at Fairmount high school, but his artistic talents eventually lead him down a different path ... journalism! Phil went to IU, and after graduating, his first job was at Terre Haute at WTHI-TV, channel 10. It was there where Phil had the “best thing to happen to him in Terre Haute.” He married county employee Pat Powell, who he met while covering the Terre Haute courthouse beat.

Phil’s trek to success was filled with paying dues from Minneapolis, to France to Atlanta to South America to Viet Nam. Eventually, he became a prestigious CBS Network Correspondent and covered some of the biggest scandals of our time including: Watergate, “Clintongate,” “Iran-Contragate,” Mayor Marion Berry and although he found them fascinating he adds, “Contrary to the common perception, I have not viewed them as a reporter’s ‘blood sport.’ Through all these events, I’ve tried to keep one motto in mind: report what you see and what you hear that can be confirmed, but don’t fall into the trap of reporting what you think.”

His upbringing in Grant County could be considered the foundation of principles of forty plus years of marriage and being revered and highly respected as an artistic journalist. CBS News, network president Andrew Heyward described him as “one of the most distinctive and distinguished journalists in the history of our great Washington bureau.” That is quite an honor for a kid who grew up in Grant County Indiana, driving a tractor and milking cows.